Portuguese Republic

World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth

Lisbon, Portugal
8-12 August 1998

United Nations

Distr.: General

WCMRY/1998/7
21 July 1998

Original: English

Item 9 (b) of the provisional agenda*

GENERAL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WORLD PROGRAMME OF ACTION FOR YOUTH TO THE YEAR 2000 AND BEYOND: RELEVANCE OF THE THREE THEMES OF INTERNATIONAL YOUTH YEAR: PARTICIPATION, DEVELOPMENT, PEACE

Report prepared by the United Nations Secretariat

98-21401*

WCMRY/1998/1.

WCMRY/1998/7
ITEM 9 (b) OF THE
PROVISIONAL AGENDA

REPORT ON THE REVIEW AND APPRAISAL OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OBJECTIVES OF THE UNITED NATIONS INTERNATIONAL YOUTH YEAR: 1985-1998 PARTICIPATION, DEVELOPMENT, PEACE

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I. INTRODUCTION

Pursuant to item 9 (b) of the provisional agenda of the first session of the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth, the United Nations Secretariat (Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Division for Social Policy and Development, Youth Unit) has prepared the present report. The United Nations General Assembly has been concerned with the issue of youth participation, development and peace for many years, but especially since 1985: the United Nations International Youth Year (IYY). The General Assembly adopted those three issues as the IYY themes in the Guidelines on for Further Planning and Suitable Follow-Up in the Field of Youth (document A/40/256) which it endorsed in 1985.

The present report draws on the various reports submitted by the Secretary-General on the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Youth Year: Participation, Development, Peace (1985-1994) and of the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond (since 1995). The report is based on the replies to a questionnaire received in 1997 from Member-States, organizations and agencies of the United Nations system and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations concerned with youth. It is also based on data collected during 1997-1998 from the above sources to prepare the country profiles on the Global Situation of Youth 2000: Trends and Prospects.

The three interrelated issues of participation, development, and peace should also be viewed in the context of the youth-related issues reflected in the programmes of action adopted by nine world conferences convened by the United Nations since 1992: Agenda 21 adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED, Rio de Jainero, 1992), the Vienna Programme of Action adopted by the United Nations World Conference on Human Rights (Vienna, Austria, 1993), the Copenhagen Programme of Action adopted by the World Summit for Social Development (Copenhagen, 6-12 March 1995), the Conclusions and Recommendations adopted by the Ninth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (Cairo, 29 April-8 May 1995), the Beijing Platform of Action adopted by the Fourth United Nations World Conference on Women: Action for Equality, Development and Peace (Beijing, 1-15 September 1995), the Programme of Action adopted by the Second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Istanbul,3-14 June 1996), the Programme of Action adopted by the World Food Summit (Rome, 13-17 November 1996), the Programme of Action adopted by the Special Session of the General Assembly on the Earth Summit Plus Five (New York, 23-27 June 1997) and by the Special Session of the General Assembly on the World Drug Problem (New York, 8-10 June 1998).

II. GENERAL ASSEMBLY RECOMMENDATIONS ON YOUTH AND PARTICIPATION, DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE

When the General Assembly endorsed the IYY Guidelines, it indicated that the themes

of the International Youth Year: Participation, Development, Peace, were distinct yet interrelated. Participation meant the recognition throughout society that each person has the potential of judging and deciding matters that concern his or her life and should have every opportunity for doing so. It required also that each person was aware of this opportunity, has access to the means necessary for utilizing it and feels satisfied that his or her contribution has been both effective and recognized as such. The Assembly further said that youth could not participate meaningfully where they were the objects of any form of exploitation, and yet, the full participation of youth in the life of the nation was important to the achievement of social justice and the attainment of the objectives of national development.

The Assembly stressed that the theme of Development as it relates to youth had two major aspects: the growth of the personality of each person and the process of local and national development in each society. It further explained that development should be seen as a process of enhancing the capability of individuals to improve the well-being of society as a whole, a process of social, economic and political change that enables each person to realize his or her potential. It was described as the dynamic process of improving the quality of individuals and the community. It concluded that within the context of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade, international cooperation was important in support of socio-economic advancement in developing countries, particularly the least developed among them, and thus for giving real meaning to the concept of participation.

The General Assembly addressed the theme of Peace as a prerequisite for life itself. It indicated that the desire for peace was world-wide and that the responsibility for its attainment belonged to everyone. It encouraged young people to halt and reverse the arms race, in the nuclear field in particular, to promote measures that would enhance confidence between States and to channel towards peaceful economic, social and cultural development many resources then being used for the acquisition of weapons. It further said that peace would be assured only if the principles of the United Nations Charter were upheld, if the underlying causes of the prevailing distrust and widespread conflict between nations was successfully death with, and if economic and social justice are furthered. The Assembly emphasized that opportunities for peace could be improved when conditions were created to enhance international understanding and cooperation and when individual rights and national sovereignty were respected.

Furthermore, the Assembly declared that it would beneficial to the cause of world peace to educate youth in the spirit of respect for the dignity and worth of the human person, for tolerance, democracy, human rights and fundamental freedoms, without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion, and respect for equal rights of all nations, as well as appreciation for the importance of international cooperation, in accordance with the principles of the Charter of the United Nations. It said that youth should be encouraged to contribute their energies, enthusiasms and creative abilities to the tasks of nation-building, the observance of the principles of the United Nations Charter, the realization of the right to self-determination and national independence, the respect for sovereignty and non-interference in the internal affairs of each State, the economic, social and cultural advancement of peoples, the implementation of a new international economic order and the promotion of international co-operation and understanding to achieve the goals of the International Youth Year: Participation, Development, Peace.

In addition, the General Assembly, through that IYY strategy, indicated the following guidelines for national, regional and international action as part of a sustained long-term effort: a) to promote, develop, and implement innovative policies and programmes for youth as part of national development plans, particularly in the fields of education and training, employment, housing and environment, health and social services, in accordance with the experience, conditions, and priorities of each country; b) to mobilize adequate human resources for the implementation of youth polices and programmes, and to provide for adequate technical co-operation activities; c) to promote youth involvement by improving, expanding and intensifying the use of channels of communication between the United Nations and youth and youth organizations at the national, regional and international levels, and d) to encourage interest and participation among young people in cultural life in all its aspects. It concluded that the implementation of those guidelines would contribute to the development process by encouraging the mobilization of young people for development.

Yet, the Assembly further indicated that a central question was the degree to which young people actually participated in development. It identified four forms of participation: political, economic, social, and cultural - often overlapping and frequently interdependent. It said that political participation was a crucial element in the structure of society and was controversial as it concerned the distribution of power. It was as difficult to quantify as it was to analyse and further, the lines between political participation and political mobilization often become blurred. The Assembly noted that young people, particularly students, have often become deeply involved in this form of participation and have sometimes articulated the need for more political participation. Regarding economic participation, the Assembly indicated that it implied the direct involvement of people in the management of their work and in sharing of benefits and it concluded that the position of young people vis a vis employment, though it has improved over the years, was still tenuous. Youth often constituted an impermanent section of the labour force that was not always consulted in the design of many employment polices and programmes. Traditional structures of authority, often based upon a generation concept, tend to circumscribe the efforts of young workers. Social participation, which the Assembly described as covering a great variety of activities in society often based on the family unit and community, the Assembly noted youth involvement their neighbourhood or community. As the socialization process within the family becomes increasingly inadequate for many young people, the Assembly described the move of youth out of the ambit of the family and into different forms of social association, such as peer groups within the educational structure. It noted that the lack of definite direction of such groups was a reflection of the social crisis that young people faced during this period. Finally, it described cultural participation as expressed artistic amateur groups and activities of cultural centres and indicated that it was essential to promote the social recognition of youth participation the creation of new forms of art and cultural values, to encourage them to consider culture as an important part of life. From an overall perspective, the Assembly concluded that common to all of those forms of participation was the need to help young people to articulate their own specific interests and to direct their initiatives into coherent youth polices and development plans to the maximum extent possible. Those guidelines were endorsed by the General Assembly resolution 40/14 and contained A/40/256 (Introduction, para. 1(c) and Sections 1A para 4, B para 15 (d) and D para. 29.

Furthermore, the General Assembly, by its resolution 42/54, 43/94, 44/59 and 50/81,

affirmed the rights of youth and youth organizations to active participation in accordance with freedom of association in all stages of implementation of the projects and activities organized at the local, national, regional, and international levels in the field of youth, in accordance with national legislation, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and other relevant international human rights instruments. And the United Nations Declaration on the Promotion among Youth of the Ideals of Peace, Mutual Respect and Understanding Between Peoples, resolution 2037(XXVI, Principle V, the General Assembly called on Governments to assist the work of youth organizations, in conformity with the principle of freedom of association, to promote the free exchange of ideas in the spirit of the Declaration and of the purposes of the United Nations set forth in the Charter. In addition, the General Assembly, by adopting the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond (resolution 50/81, Annex), called for "the full and effective participation of youth in the life of society and in decision-making" and made several "proposals for action" in that regard: "a) improving access to information in order to enable young people to make better use of their opportunities to participate in decision-making; b) developing opportunities for young people to learn their rights and responsibilities, promoting their social, political, developmental and environmental participation, removing obstacles that effect their full contribution to society and respecting inter-alia, freedom of association; c) encouraging and promoting youth associations through financial, educational and technical support and promotion of their activities; d) taking into account the contribution of youth in designing, implementing and evaluating national development polices and plans affecting their concerns; (e) encouraging increased national, regional and international cooperation and exchanges between youth organizations; (f) inviting Governments to strengthen the involvement of young people international forums, inter-alia, by considering the inclusion of youth representatives in their national delegations to the General Assembly." On that latter issue of "inclusion of youth representatives national delegations", it should be recalled that the General Assembly has made several recommendations regarding not only the meetings of the Assembly itself, but also "other relevant United Nations meetings and international conferences dealing with youth-related issues" (resolutions 43/94, 45/103, and 47/85).

And concerning youth and peace, the General Assembly has in 1965 adopted the United Nations Declaration on the Promotion among Youth of the Ideals of Peace, Mutual Respect and Understanding between Peoples, resolution 2037 (XX) by which it invited Governments to: (a) bring youth up in the spirit of peace, justice, freedom, mutual respect and understanding order to promote equal rights for all human beings and all nations, economic and social progress, disarmament and the maintenance of international peace and security; (b) provide youth with all means of education, including as of major importance the guidance given by parents or family, instruction and information intended for the young to foster among them the ideals of peace, humanity, liberty, and international solidarity, and acquaint them with the role entrusted to the United Nations as a means of preserving and maintaining peace and promoting international understanding and co-operation; (c) bring up youth the knowledge of the dignity and equality of all men and women, without distinction as to race, colour, ethnic origins or beliefs, and respect for fundamental human rights and for the rights of peoples to self determination; (d) promote among youth exchanges, travel tourism, meetings, the study of foreign languages, the twinning of towns and universities without discrimination and similar activities and youth should be brought together educational, cultural and sporting activities the spirit of this Declaration; (e) form national and international associations of young people

to promote the purposes of the United Nations, particularly international peace and security, friendly relations among nations based on respect for equal sovereignty of States, the final abolition of colonialism and of racial discrimination and of other violations of human rights.

In 1985, the General Assembly adopted the Guidelines on Youth as a follow-up to the International Youth Year which cited one particular goal of the Year concerned with youth and peace: "to promote among youth of the ideals of peace, mutual respect and understanding among people". Governments were invited: a) to consider providing peace education to young people and make available information on relevant United Nations resolutions and recommendations concerning peace, disarmament, the right of peoples to self determination, peaceful settlement of disputes and a new international economic order; b) to foster dialogue, meetings and exchange of ideas and experiences among youth, particularly with regard to the need for peaceful coexistence, on the basis of mutual respect for the dignity of each member of international society and the importance of security for all States; c) to encourage young people to be concerned about the plight of young people who are victims of colonialism, racism, apartheid, and all forms of aggression and occupation of their countries; d) to review and encourage young people's participation in activities dedicated to international peace, disarmament, detente and the development of friendly relations among nations; e) to encourage initiatives and activities aimed at promoting respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms by young people, as stated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other relevant documents, particularly by giving proper consideration to their education in the field of human rights and its indispensable connection with the preservation of peace; f) to facilitate the general dissemination of information and unimpeded access to all sectors of the public to sufficient and accurate information on questions pertaining to peace; and g) to encourage young people's awareness of and participation in activities organized under United Nations auspices such as United Nations Disarmament Week and the World Disarmament Campaign.

In 1995, the General Assembly adopted the World Programme of Action on Youth by which it recognized in the Preamble that the decade since the observance of International Youth Year: Participation, Development and Peace had been a period during which the world experienced fundamental political, economic and socio-cultural changes, and indicated that those changes would inevitably affect at least the first decade of the twenty-first century as well. It further said that young people represent agents, beneficiaries and victims of major societal changes and are generally confronted by a paradox: to seek to be integrated into an existing order or to serve as a force to transform that order. It declared that young people in all parts of the world. Living in countries at different stages of development and in different socio-economic settings, aspire to full participation in the life of society. The Assembly cited problems of youth and racism and xenophobia, as well as the difficulties of young people returning into the community from armed conflict and confrontation and called on every State to foster mutual respect, tolerance and understanding among young people with different racial, cultural and religious backgrounds. It also called on every State to take measures to improve the situation of young people living in particularly difficult conditions, including protecting their rights. It proposed action on the issues of promoting mutual respect and understanding and the ideals of peace, solidarity and tolerance among youth as well as the promotion of human right education in order to make youth aware of their civil, cultural, economic, political, and social rights, as well as their societal responsibilities.

III. IMPLEMENTATION OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY RECOMMENDATIONS ON YOUTH AND PARTICIPATION, DEVELOPMENT, PEACE

In order to understand the ways and means of the implementation of those mandates, it is first necessary to make such a review in the context of integrated youth polices and programmes at national, regional and international levels. For the three themes of the International Youth Year were not meant to be viewed in isolation from each other, but inter linked with each other and with the overall process of formulating, implementing and evaluating youth polices by, for and with youth and youth organizations. The overall process involves the empowerment of youth as responsible citizens in the life of society and decision-making processes.

Table I illustrates an integrative conceptual framework to analyse the matter. On the left side of the matrix, there are five basic types of polices and programmes which concern the three themes of the International Youth Year: legal, political, economic, social, and cultural. On the top of the matrix, there are ten different sub-groups of youth as identified the 1985 United Nations Guidelines for International Youth Year (A/40/256 endorsed by the General Assembly its resolution 40/14): urban youth, rural youth, young women, young worker, students, young people who are discriminated against their societies because of race and color, young migrants and refugees, disabled youth, young offenders and young drug addicts. There are different types of integration processes as well as marginalization processes (opportunities and problems) for young people in that regard (legal, political, economic, social or cultural). And there are many examples of how Member-States, non-governmental youth organizations and intergovernmental organizations have implemented such mandates on youth vis a vis the three IYY themes: Participation, Development , Peace.

A. National

Concerning youth and legislative polices and programmes, the Government of New Zealand's Ministry of Youth Affairs and the Government of the Philippines' National Youth Commission sponsor a Youth Parliament on a regular basis in their respective countries to actively involve young people in the parliamentary process and give youth the opportunity to have their views heard by the key decision makers and the general public. The Youth Parliament in New Zealand, for example, simulates as realistically as possible the actual workings of the New Zealand Parliament. That includes the active involvement of Members of Parliament . The event is held for two days every three years in the New Zealand House of Parliament. Various youth and student organizations New Zealand are involved in planning, organizing and evaluating the sessions of the Youth Parliament. In the Philippines, the National Youth Parliament met in 1996 and brought together over 200 youth leaders from national and local organizations and serves as a biennial consultative mechanism between the Government and youth leaders. In other countries, youth-led non-governmental youth coordinating bodies (ie. British Youth Council and the United States of America National Collaboration on Youth) sponsor such youth events in legislative bodies and/or represent youth vis a vis legislative committees. National unions of students, young worker unions, rural youth associations, and

young women's movements in many counties often lobby priority issues vis a vis national, provincial and local legislative bodies. Political participation can be further measured by the age young people have the right to vote every country and the exercise of that right by young people at the electoral polls at all levels.

Furthermore, some national non-governmental organizations have played very important roles in the formulation, implementation and evaluation of national youth policies. One recent example is the Malaysian Youth Council (MYC) which published a book entitled: "Strengthening the Youth Agenda: Implementation Through Empowerment". In 1995, the MYC held consultations with the Ministry of Youth and Sports which led to the drafting of a National Youth Development Policy. The proposal assisted by the MYC introduced four major issues for this new policy: a) defining the age range of youth (a consensus was reached that the main target group were those the 15 to 24 years age group); (b) ensuring the full implementation of the policy so that it would become effective; (c) placing greater emphasis on youth potentials rather than on their problems; and (d) making the policy more youth-centred and democratic by ensuring the full participation of youth of youth in the planning and execution of youth programmes. The National Youth Development Policy was officially launched by His Excellency Muhyiddin Mohd Yassin, Minister of Youth and Sports of the Government of Malaysia in Kuala Lumpur on 8 December 1997. In South Africa, the Government held a series of national and provincial youth summits in 1997 to provide opportunities for youth to participate in the process of formulating and drafting a national youth policy and of establishing a National Youth Commission. Such national youth organizations as the South African Youth Council (SAYC) as well as others participated in all aspects of this consultative process which led to the establishment of a National Youth Commission and the adoption of an integrated national youth policy in 1997.

Another indicator of effective youth participation in national development concerns the degree to which the Government recognizes, encourages and supports the work of a national youth non-governmental coordinating body (ie. councils or committees of an umbrella nature bringing together many different types of youth organizations) in overall national development and national youth policy processes and to what degree such action is taken for other groups (ie. national unions of students, national unions of young workers, rural youth organizations, young women's associations, organizations for disabled youth etc.).There are, of course different types or models in that regard and different degrees of Governmental intervention. Annex I presents a list of such national, regional and global youth NGO coordination mechanisms for youth participation in development and peace (as of July 1998). In South Africa, the Government encouraged the creation of the South African Youth Council (SAYC) in 1997 especially to participate in the formulation of a national youth policy and has supported the activities of the South African Student Congress (SASCO) in the educational sector. In Syria, the Government recognizes and supports the work of the Revolutionary Youth Union (RYU) for overall youth input into national development and national youth policy and the National Union of Syrian Students (NUSS) for activities in the educational sector. In Sweden, the Government recognizes and supports the work of the National Council of Swedish Youth Organizations (LSU) for overall youth input into national development and national youth policy and the National Union of Swedish Students (SFS) in the education sector. The degree of Governmental recognition, encouragement and or support of such bodies is often directly related to the type of political system in each country. For example, in centrally-planned

Table 1: **Conceptual framework on the linkages of youth policy and programmes to subgroups of youth**

YOUTH PARTICIPATION
DEVELOPMENT
PEACE

types of policies and programmes / *Sub-groups of youth*	Urban youth	Rural youth	Young women	Young workers	Students	Young people victims of discrimination (re:race or color	Young migrants and refugees	Disabled youth	Young offenders	Young drug addicts
Legal										
Political										
Economic										
Social										
Cultural										

countries, the youth wings of the sole or major political party often serve as such national youth NGO coordinating bodies, while in market-oriented countries, Governments often recognize and support national youth NGO coordinating bodies of a more pluralistic political, social and cultural nature. During the Cold War, there were many examples of covert political and economic control of both types of youth and student coordinating bodies by both types of political systems. In contemporary Central and Eastern Europe, there has been a decline of youth participation in such bodies precisely because of the history of such political manipulation by Governments during the Cold War and the lack of faith among many young people in new national youth/student coordinating bodies. In developing countries, especially in Asia and Africa, national youth NGO coordinating bodies have often been controlled and run by adults (the 30-50 year old age group),while national -union of students have often been controlled and run by young students (the 15 to 24 year old age group). In fact, there has tended to be a generation gap between those two types coordinating organizations. It has been the student unions, not the youth councils, which have led to major political changes in many developing countries and have as such often functioned as opposition movements to Governments as illustrated by the recent student protests in 1998 South-East Asia.

On matters of youth and national development, a number of Governments have promoted youth participation in the formulation, implementation and evaluation of national development polices and programmes. In Africa, for example, the Government of South Africa is planning a national youth service to promote the participation of youth in the implementation of the national youth policy through local and provincial youth projects. The Government of Burkina Faso has organized reforestation camps for young people, and the Government of Malawi has launched the Malawi Youth Credit Scheme to ensure that young people are provided with credit and training to enable them to begin or enter viable small business. In Mali, the Government has established a National Youth Service (SNJ) to enable young graduates to work on voluntary service projects for national development. In Mozambique, the Government has also set up such a national youth service focused on such issues as education for family life and community action.

In Asia and the Pacific, for example, the All-China Youth Federation (ACYF) has recently set of a national youth voluntary service with cooperation of the United Nations Volunteers (UNV) and UNESCO to combat illiteracy, extend medical care, encourage environmental education, promote the rights and responsibilities of youth, and spread technology and culture. In India, the Government has set up a national youth service scheme which encourages students to undertake voluntary community work without re numeration. Approximately 1.3 million students are currently participating in this national service scheme. The Government also encourages non-governmental youth organizations to seek financial assistance from the Government to participate in the Youth Development Week each year, and coordinates a massive network of Nehru Youth Centres throughout the country to promote the active participation of youth local development projects both urban and rural areas. In the Philippines, the Government set up the Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) as a national youth service organization based at local and provincial levels and has recently initiated an Islolar Programme to serve as an integrated and comprehensive training programme for the empowerment of youth leaders.

In Europe and North America, several Governments have likewise initiated national

youth service programmes. In Canada, the Government formed a Youth Service Canada and Summer Job Action programmes to promote youth participation in development projects at provincial and local levels. In the Russian Federation, the Government adopted a federal youth service programme called: "Russia's Youth" to actively involve young people in community service and national development. In the United States of America, the Government initiated the America Corp which includes special activities to promote student participation in community service projects.

In Latin America and the Caribbean, the Government of the Bahamas has launched a National Youth Development Programme to promote youth participation in national development with a focus on issues as: youth who were unemployed school leavers, the empowerment of young women, and vocational training. The Government of Barbados set up a Youth Entrepreneurship programme, as well as several other countries in the region. In Peru, both the United Nations Youth Fund and the UNESCO Special Fund on Youth have together assisted the Government and youth NGOs to set up a training programme for young entrepreneurs. The Government of Jamaica reintroduced a National Youth Service, having learned from the experiences of previous efforts to mobilize young people for national development. In addition, the Government of Trinidad has sponsored several programmes for youth training, employment partnership, career enhancement , youth camps, civilian conservation corps, and young entrepreneur to involve youth in national development. In Venezuela, the Government has initiated a national youth service with a focus on job training, youth rehabilitation, supervised recreation, drug prevention, cultural, heath and educational programmes.

In Western Asia, the Syrian Arab Republic has supported national youth service activities of the Revolutionary Youth Union for the eradication of the illiteracy of thousands of citizens in cooperation with the Ministry of Culture for a campaign that aims at eradicating illiteracy before the year 2000. In Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates, the respective Governments have established national youth services to undertake projects to assist various national development plans.

Concerning youth and peace, several Governments and non-governmental organizations have reported on activities to promote United Nations mandates on that matter. For example, the National Council of Swedish Youth Organizations (LSU) convened a Middle East Conference on "Young Leadership Visions for A future Peace" (Var Gard, Saltsjobaden, Sweden, August 31-7 September 1996). The meeting was organized by the LSU with financial support from the Swedish Institute and the Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs, and brought together approximately 50 young people from both the Middle East (Israel and Palestine in particular) and Sweden. The participants were selected in a concerted effort between the Swedish hosts and national coordinators. Each participant represented the leadership of youth or student organizations and thus the discussions of the meeting could be passed to thousands of young people in the Middle East and the host country. The programme consisted of lectures discussions, study visits on: the Swedish Parliament, political parties, foreign policy, Nordic Council, Stockholm City Council, working groups (economy, finance, environment, peace and security) with presentations by the respective Swedish Ministries, National Board for Youth Affairs etc. The main point was the discussion among participants on "the importance of youth for peace", the presentation of different projects aiming to create platforms for dialogue, and

visions for the future peace. Other youth organizations several countries have likewise held peace meetings bringing young people from conflict situations together to both review the nature of the problems and to propose ways and means for youth to promote peaceful solutions. Yet, despite these efforts, during the period under review: 1985-1998, there has been a dramatic increase in intolerance and hatred among youth of different racial and ethnic backgrounds. That has been further aggravated by some Governments as well as by certain political parties or groups within countries which seek to promote racist ideas and hatreds of the past among contemporary youth. The skin heads and young ethnic cleansers, some student protesters and young military officers, for example, have brought back and fuelled up certain remnants of racial hatred against ethnic minorities.

B. Regional level

Several United Nations regional commissions have undertaken activities on youth vis a vis the themes "Participation, Development and Peace". The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) has held two regional intergovernmental meetings of senior officers responsible for youth (1996 Beijing and 1998 Bangkok) with a focus on human resources development for youth (the 1998 meeting was to prepare for the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth and a 1998 regional youth NGO conference to prepare for the World Youth Forum of the United Nations System. The three IYY themes came up in all three ESCAP meetings. In terms of documentation, ESCAP prepared a *Review of the Youth Situation, Policies and Programmes Asia and the Pacific* (United Nations, New York, 1997) for the 1996 meeting. That study indicated that " the economic, social, and political conditions of youth largely condition the effectiveness of actions proposed in the World Programme of Action for Youth." It also presented a table (see Table 2 of the present study) on the "Age of legal rights and obligations" which describes the situation of youth in that regard in 28 countries of the ESCAP region. Many countries in that region have reported that youth aged 18 have the right o vote law and have the right to marry without parental consent and several cited that 18 as the age to be held liable for transgression. The 1996 conference requested ESCAP to develop a youth participation index- a proposal which was reiterated at the1998 meeting, but extended to the international level. ESCAP reported that " bias exists among many adults that young people are the cause of social problems, not the solution; they believe that providing youth with information and knowledge poses a threat to social stability. But the promotion of the health and education of adolescents actually offers tremendous benefits for the public good while also helping youth to fulfill their own potential. The nature of the relationship between adults and adolescents is at the heart of the matter. A positive outlook by adults is more likely to elicit a positive reaction in adolescents. For this to happen, there are two prerequisites: the basic needs of young people must be met and the opportunities to use their capacities must be provided."

The ESCAP Second Asia-Pacific Intergovernmental Meeting on Human Resources Development for Youth, convened by ESCAP from 1 to 5 June 1998 Bangkok, adopted an "Asia-Pacific Position for the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth" which addressed the themes of Participation, Development and Peace. On "Youth and Participation", the Conference called for enabling active participation of youth in the life of society and in decision-making processes through the improvement and/or creation of conducive mechanisms and ensuring that the necessary gender-sensitive measures are taken to attain equal access

Statistics: Age of legal rights and obligations in Asia and the Pacific

Country or area	Age to have right to vote	Age to marry without consent of parents	Age to be held liable for transgressions
Azerbaijan	18	18	14
Bangladesh	18	21 (m) 18 (f)	21(m) 18(f)
Cambodia	18	25	18
China	18	22(m) 20(f)	16
Fiji	21	18	17
Guam	18	18	18
Hong Kong	18	18	17
Indonesia	17	21	18
Islamic Republic of Iran	15	15 [1]	15
Japan	20	20	20
Kazakstan	20	18	14
Macau	18	18	na
Malaysia	21	16	16
Maldives	21	16	16
Marshall Islands	18	18	18
Mongolia	18	18	16
New Caledonia	18	18	18
Niue	18	21(m) 18(f)	14
Palau	18	18	18
Philippines	18	26 [2]	29 [3]
Rep. of Korea	20	18(m) 16(f)	14
Samoa	21	na	na
Singapore	21	21	16
Sri Lanka	18	18	18
Thailand	20	20	20
Turkmenistan	18	18	18 [4]
Tuvalu	18	21	20
Vanuatu	18	22 (m) 24 (f)	na

Source: ESCAP youth questionnaire, 1996

Notes: (m) = males
(f) = females
(na) = not available
[1] For virgins, parental consent is necessary regardless of age
[2] Youth between ages 21 and 25 are obliged to ask their parents for advice on the intended marriage
[3] Until the offender reaches 21, he or she will be put to the custody of the Department of Social Welfare or an authorized training and rehabilitation institution.
[4] Age of 14 for serious crimes

and participation by young women and young men. It also called for the development of the capacity of young people through the empowerment of formal and informal coalitions and networks of youth, upholding and reinforcing policies that encourage independent and democratic forms of youth organizations and support freedom of association and expression to ensure the full contribution of youth to society. In addition, it recommended undertaking special efforts to reach young people with special concerns and providing them with the means and the motivation to contribute effectively in their societies, including young people living with disabilities, young refugees, displaced and parent less youth; indigenous youth, juvenile delinquents, street youth, young people suffering HIV/AIDS, hopelessness and joblessness, and other disadvantaged and marginalized youth. It also called for the creation of structures and supporting experiences which enhance leadership skills and opportunities for young men and young women, and enhancing the role of youth of youth organizations in the planning, implementation and evaluation of national development plans and programmes. Moreover, it recommended advocating the need for the implementation of statutory requirements to ensure participation of young men and young women in decision-making mechanisms and processes, especially those affecting youth policies and programmes. And, it called for the encouragement of youth voluntarism as important form of youth participation and for the promotion of the development of a youth participation index and national and international mechanisms for its periodic evaluation.

Concerning youth and development, the ESCAP Conference agreed on investing human resources development for youth to ensure their active participation in local, national, and international development for their own behalf and that of society, ensuring actions focusing on the alleviation of poverty, which is important for all development initiatives for youth, ensuring gender-sensitive development which includes a focus on both increasing young women's participation as well as integrating gender concerns into youth development initiatives, and ensuring access for young women and young men to economic resources including land, credit, technologies, and information as a necessary condition for relevant and effective national development.. It also recommended enhancing the opportunities and development resources of young people living within rural and remote communities. The Conference likewise called for encouraging bilateral, regional, and international cooperation to create enabling environment at the national and international levels. Regarding "Youth and Peace", the Conference recommended ensuring that young men and women live within environment free from threat, conflict, violence and exploitation, including violence in all forms of media, for strengthening the involvement of youth and youth organizations in peace-building, disarmament and conflict resolution, and preventing the participation, involvement and mobilization of adolescents in armed conflict and other hostilities. It also recommended enhancing the role of youth and youth organizations for the promotion of intercultural learning, tolerance, human rights education and democracy order to promote mutual understanding and respect for cultural, ethnic and religious diversity, responsibility, solidarity and international cooperation.

The Asia-Pacific Meeting of Youth Organizations Preparation for the Third Session of the World Youth Forum of the United Nations System held at ESCAP Bangkok, Thailand on 27-29 May 1998 adopted several recommendations on these themes (WCMRY/1998/IC/4). It called for enhanced participation of young people in the formulation and implementation of youth policies by: a) creating a formal national level consultative mechanism for high-level

policy makers and the national youth organizations; b) encouraging youth voluntarism; c) strengthening the role of youth NGOs on formulation and implementation of youth policies and partnership between Government and youth NGOs; d) identification of different roles of young people, NGOs, Governments, and United Nations and other international organizations in the formulation and implementation process; e) reflecting young people's assessment of their own situation as well as priorities expressed by them in the formulation of youth policies; f) using appropriate language/wording in youth-related documents; and g) promoting the participation of youth in the programmes of sectoral/line Ministries. On youth and human rights, the Meeting recommended that all youth and youth services should explicitly incorporate and promote awareness and observance of human rights set forth the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other instruments, and called for the adoption of International Charter of Youth Rights and the appointment of human rights correspondents within youth organizations and agencies monitor and report on the implementation of standards and instruments pertaining to youth rights to the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, through regional rapporteurs attached to the regional inter-governmental ECOSOC commissions.

The Latin American Preparatory Meeting for the World Youth Forum of the United Nations System was held at ECLAC Santiago, Chile from 1 to 3 June 1998 and adopted a Declaration (WCMRY/1998/IC/4). It called on Governments to inter-alia establish agencies to direct coordinated public policies in the field of youth, on the basis of equality, participation and consensus, with the various government representatives (education, health, social welfare, human development etc.), representatives of youth organizations (national, local, student and volunteer organizations) and other people and institutions involved the development of youth in each country (non-governmental organizations, business leaders, educators etc). It also recommended that Governments formulate and implement a comprehensive law relating to youth that recognizes young people as subjects and deals with such issues as the need for institutional reforms in each Government's agencies responsible for youth, legalization and strengthening of youth organizations, recognition of their participation, and adequate conditions to ensure awareness of and compliance with economic, social, environmental, cultural and political rights, as well as the specific rights of young men and women as proposed in the draft International Charter of Youth Rights. The Meeting further recommended Governments to facilitate the participation of young men and women in debates and decision-making on priority public issues that strengthen sovereignty and self determination, on issues such as external debt, excessive military spending, environmental degradation and unemployment, as well as participation in the formulation of public policies, particularly the fields of education and health. It proposed that Governments adopt the International Charter of Youth Rights and promote efforts at the national level to ensure recognition of those rights, and recommended that Governments recognize the rights of young people, as well as the questions considered in the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond, as integral parts of universal human rights, which are indivisible and interdependent.

The African Preparatory Meeting for the Third Session of the World Youth Forum of the United Nations System was held Dakar, Senegal from 23 to 27 May, 1998 hosted by the African Youth Network (AYN), Pan African Youth Movement (MPJ), and the Senegal National Youth Council and assisted by the Government of Senegal's Ministry of Youth and Sports, OAU, UNESCO, United Nations Youth Unit and Conference of Ministers of Youth and Sports of the Franco phone Community (CONFEGES). The Meeting adopted the Dakar Declaration by

which it agreed inter-alia to unanimously denounce the different forms of violence, particularly terrorism and extremism as well as those who support those criminals against mankind and attempted interference in its different forms. It called on African States and the OAU to maintain and promote the Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution in Africa as to come up with fair and negotiated political solutions. It asked for support from partners for the implementation of national policies for the promotion of citizenship, and called for the establishment of African Youth Fund, a Programme of African Youth Volunteers, and an African Youth Charter - to be followed up by OAU Member-States and the appropriate United Nations agencies and organizations. The Meeting further recommended that Member-States establish and/or restructure national youth councils (or any other similar organization) which must be crucibles of meetings, follow-up and evaluation of youth activities, taking into account the socio-economic and political changes that took place in Africa and the rest of the world. The United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) completed a study entitled: *Situation Analysis of Youth Africa* (OAU/CONF/YOUTH/Doc.3 (I) 1996 for the first session of the Pan-African Conference on Youth and Development (Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 1996) which it brought attention to: "reports of arbitrary arrests of students, frequent bans on student organizations, police brutality against unarmed protesting students, detention and harassment on campuses, dismissal from studies and the frequent and arbitrary closure of educational institutions, extrajudicial execution, and other abuses by Government forces of one particular ethnic/racial group in a country have all been documented". ECA concluded: "For Africa's youth to participate meaningfully in their self-development, their freedom to express themselves and their freedom from fear must be guaranteed. This can only be assured through the adoption of African Charter on Youth and Students which among other things guarantees the right to organize, education, employment, and free and public expression."

C. Global level

The World Youth Forum of the United Nations System, at its first session Vienna, Austria from 27 to 29 May 1991, adopted several recommendations regarding the issues of youth and Participation, Development and Peace. Mandated by the General Assembly its resolution 44/59, the Forum made recommendations on: improving channels of communication, establishing effective functioning structures of communications and attuning such channels to youth-related projects of the United Nations system. The World Youth Forum, itself, is an innovation, as it brings together representatives of a tripartite grouping: youth NGOs (national, regional and international), youth-related agencies and organizations of the United Nations system and youth-related IGOs. One of the projects adopted by the Forum was submitted by the Canada World Youth / Jeunesse Canada World, which proposed the creation of a United Nations Youth Exchange. The idea was followed up by Canada World Youth with the United Nations Volunteers (UNV/UNDP) which agreed to initiate a pilot phase of that scheme to involve young people between the ages of 18 and 24 in pairs (one from a country the South and one the North) to work on a short-term basis on specific development projects. In 1993, Canada World Youth and the United Nations Volunteers (UNV) initiated such exchange between youth participants from Canada and Benin (with 50 per cent female participation) placed for six months in eight rural communities where UNV had field operations. The results were so promising that expansion of the plan was recommended by all parties concerned. UNV, Canada World Youth, and the Swedish Centre for International Youth

Exchange (CIU) set up the project known as "Youth Partners for Development" (YPD) and invited national and international youth organizations as well as youth-related agencies and organizations of the United Nations system to consider the possibility of a joint programme. The YPD carried out such youth exchanges in Ecuador, Burkina Faso and Sri Lanka in 1995-1996. At the second session of the World Youth Forum Vienna 1996, the YPD team presented a review of the progress achieved and difficulties encountered and exchanged experiences with WFY participants.

Furthermore, the WYF, at its second session made a number of additional recommendations on youth and Participation, Development, and Peace, especially the Working Groups on "Youth Participation and Youth Rights", "Youth Tolerance, Racism, Xenophobia", and "Youth and Communications" (see the Report of the Forum A/52/80-E/1997/14). In addition, the United Nations regional commissions (initially ESCAP and ECLAC) cooperated with UNESCO and the United Nations Youth Unit (DESA/DSPD) to convene regional preparatory meetings for the Forum and consequently increased the outreach participation of the Forum to more youth NGOs at the regional level for both in-put and follow-up purposes pursuant to ECOSOC resolution 1997/55. A call for the inclusion of a person under 25 years old, representing a youth organization, in every national delegation to the United Nations was adopted by the second session of the World Youth Forum of the United Nations System, as well as the creation of a United Nations Youth Rights Charter and the appointment by the General Assembly of a special rapporteur to monitor youth rights for no less than three years. It also called for the promotion of increased knowledge in order to counter intolerance, and recommended a "tolerance network data base" be formed by youth organizations to help fight racism and xenophobia as well as special efforts among youth to break down ethnic and racial stereotypes.

The United Nations Department of Public Information (DPI) also undertakes numerous activities on the topics of youth vis a vis Participation, Development and Peace. The DPI promotes activities and programmes on or of concern to young people through a variety of means. These include media outreach, print products, radio and television programmes, electronic media. collaboration with non-governmental organizations and schools, lectures and seminars, media training for journalists and guided tours, among others. With its network of over 70 United Nations Information Centres and Services (UNICs and UNISs), DPI translates international instruments, information and educational materials into more than 200 local languages. The Centres reference libraries make such translations available to students as well as disseminate to schools and academic institutions. To enhance the interest and participation of youth in global issues, the UNICs and UNISs play an active role organizing educational programmes such as Model United Nations assemblies, providing briefings, coordinating volunteer teacher programmes in secondary schools and universities, and assisting curriculum planners at all levels encouraging teaching about the United Nations. The DPI NGO Section involves many youth organizations as active participants in its conferences and briefings, including the DPI/NGO Annual Conference held in New York each September. The UN/NGO Link is Internet website where youth organizations can browse for information on UN activities related to NGOs (accessed under http://www.un.org). The United Nations CyberschoolBus makes bi-weekly announcements and reaches thousands of schools and students in over 50 countries (accessed under http://www.un.org/pubs/cyberschoolbus). DPI also sponsors an annual Training Programme for Broadcasters and Journalists from Developing Countries)

Designed for young media professionals, it provides an opportunity for them to acquaint themselves with the work of the UN and on the ways and means to report on UN activities on behalf of their news organizations. DPI co-chaired with UNESCO the Working Group on Youth and Communications at the second session of the World Youth Forum of the United Nations System.

Concerning United Nations activities on the theme of "Youth and Peace", one of the most unique events in the 53 year history of the United Nations concerned a seminar entitled "Youth as Bridge-Builders in Multi-Ethnic Communities" co- organized by the youth organizations of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia in cooperation with the United Nations Preventive Deployment Force (UNPREDEP) on 20 May 1997 in Skopje. The seminar was one of the first ever supported by a United Nations Peace Force and served itself as a bridge builder between youth of different ethnic groups in this country. The morning consisted of lectures by officials from the United Nations and UNESCO as well as from the Norwegian Institute of Human Rights and the University of Sts. Cyril and Methodius, Skopje, and the afternoon consisted of meetings and reports from youth leaders representing various working groups on such issues as: "Developing Trust and Tolerance and Establishing Mechanisms for Youth Dialogue", "The role of Education Society", and "Developing a National Youth Policy". The seminar served to promote dialogue among youth organizations which had been split by great ethnic difference representing the Albanian minority and the majority of the country, and led UNPREDEP to convene monthly luncheon meetings for these diverse youth organizations at UNPREDEP Headquarters presided over by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and the UNPREDEP Brigadier-General.

The United Nations General Assembly has declared the Year 2000 as the International Year for the Culture of Peace and UNESCO has initiated a "Youth for Peace" campaign as part of its preparations for that Year. In Latin America, for example, a 24 month project was launched in January 1998 in many countries of the region. A series of preparatory meetings were held beginning with a youth meeting organized by the National Youth Council of Guatemala from 11 to 14 March, 1997, a youth meeting in Ciudad de Tapachula, Mexico from 30 May to 1 June 1997, a training course for youth leaders at Paraiso de Cartago, Costa Rica from 7 to 8 July 1997, and a seminar at the XIV World Festival of Youth and Students Havana, Cuba from 28 July to 5 August 1997. During the UNESCO General Conference October-November 1997, the project entitled "Youth for Peace" was presented by governmental delegations from the youth ministries of Haiti , Colombia, and Puerto Rico. The objectives of the project are to: a) promote exchange of experience among and strengthen the institutional and professional capacities of governmental organizations responsible for youth though a common strategy for a culture of peace at national and regional levels, b) facilitate an intersectoral analysis and inter-ministerial coordination for the promotion among youth of the culture of peace; and c) disseminate to youth of the region the ideals of democratic participation development relations to the values of a culture of peace. The activities envisaged include; information gathering, completion of studies, organization of training courses, and mobilization meetings of youth for peace.

IV. REVIEW AND APPRAISAL : PROBLEMS ADDRESSED

A. National level

As indicated in the report of the Secretary-General on the Implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond (A/52/60-E/1997/6), only 24 percent of the 185 Member-States of the United Nations reported in 1994 that they had undertaken a national programme of action to promote the participation of youth in national development, and in 1997 the percentage had increased to 40%. Yet, with only 73 of 185 Member-States indicating that such activities had been undertaken, there is certainly a need for greater action on this problem. Even in Governments that have adopted an integrated national youth policy, there is a question as to how many have recognized and encouraged the work of a national youth non-governmental council and a national union of students and sought to involve such bodies(and their individual member organizations) in the Government's decision-making processes on national youth policies and programmes as well as those on national development. There are few examples of joint meetings between national governmental youth-related ministries and such national youth and student NGOs and joint cooperation on ways and means to formulate, implement and evaluate polices and programmes for youth participation in national development and for youth activities for peace, mutual respect, tolerance and understanding between peoples. In addition, another problem in this regard is that most of the technical cooperation projects of the United Nations system have not been undertaken on such priority issues of Youth Participation, Development and Peace and very few of the United Nations Peace Forces have worked (as UNPREDEP) with youth organizations from conflicting political, economic and/or socio-cultural backgrounds to encourage youth to be bridge-builders of peace. There has been a lack of political will among Governments to take this matter seriously and to fund appropriate training and participation for such purposes.

B. Regional level

The same problem exists at the regional level. Of the five United Nations regional commissions, only two (ESCAP and ECLAC) have undertaken concerted efforts to follow-up the mandates of the General Assembly and ECOSOC on the matter of action to implement the World Programme of Action for Youth at the regional level, and in particular, to promote regional programmes for youth participation in both national development and peace-building. The regional youth meetings of ESCAP and ECLAC for the World Youth Forum in 1998 both gave attention to this problem, but few advisory services and technical cooperation projects have been undertaken by the United Nations regional commissions on this matter. In addition, with the exception of the Inter-American Development Bank, the regional development banks have also not been giving any significant attention to this matter. The World Youth Forum of the United Nations System, at its first session in 1991, called for a new partnership to be formed between the operational agencies and organizations of the United Nations system and regional youth NGO platforms in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Europe and North America, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Western Asia. However , very little follow-up attention has been given to that issue in terms of joint planning, implementation and evaluation of such regional youth NGO projects on participation, development and peace.

C. Global level

At the global level, in the 53 years history of the United Nations, there has never been a regular series of global meetings under the aegis of the Organization to bring together either the senior officials of governmental ministries and departments responsible for youth or the national, regional and international youth non-governmental in 185 Member States to both review and appraise the implementation of the basic international strategies on youth (in particular the Guidelines for the Follow-Up of the International Youth Year: Participation, Development, Peace and the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond) and the ways and means to better implement them by, for and with world youth. The World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth and the World Youth Forum of the United Nations System are two new global youth platforms derived from the World Programme of Action for Youth (paras 123 and 125). For most of the history of the United Nations, global discussions on youth normally excluded both the governmental ministers responsible for youth and such youth NGOs from the national, regional, and global levels. Moreover, the procedures for youth NGO consultative status with the United Nations were restricted for many years to a small grouping of (for the most part) international youth NGOs based in Europe and North America. The new mandate of the Economic and Social Council (resolution 1996/31) provided more flexible consultative arrangements making national, regional, and sub-regional youth NGOs eligible for such status withe United Nations. While this has brought many more such youth organizations into official relations with the United Nations, there is a very uneven and under-developed degree of participation of such youth NGOs in the basic decision-making processes of the functional and geographic commissions of the ECOSOC and no formal status for them in the General Assembly. Since 1970, the Governments of Denmark, the Netherlands and Norway have adopted a policy that one member of their respective delegation to the General Assembly should be a young person appointed by the national youth NGO councils in those countries and participate for three months every year in the work of the General Assembly's Third Committee. Only those three of the Member States of the United Nations (joined by Austria) have continued to follow up this practice to promote youth participation in development and peaceful cooperation-despite many resolutions of the Assembly inviting Governments to strengthen the involvement of young people in international forums, inter-alia, by considering the inclusion of youth representatives their national delegations to the General Assembly and other relevant United Nations meetings and international conferences dealing with youth-related issues (General Assembly resolutions 43/94, 45/103, and 47/85).

V RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION YOUTH

A National level

Based on the mandates of the General Assembly, Member States should be encouraged to either strengthen, or as appropriate, establish national youth consultative bodies bringing together both representatives of national youth non-governmental organizations and of national ministries and departments concerned with youth (involving not only the Government's focal point on youth policy, but also representatives of other Governmental offices concerned with youth and: education, employment, health, poverty, rural development, drug abuse, juvenile delinquency, environment, human settlements, leisure-time activities etc). Such a joint body

of youth NGOs and Government representatives should undertake a national review of the situation of youth based on the perceptions of youth and the responses of both non-governmental and Governmental youth and youth-related agencies. The three themes of the United Nations International Youth Year : Participation, Development , Peace as well as the priority concern of national youth policy (cited in both the 1985 Guidelines on Youth and the 1995 World Programme of Action for Youth) should provide a major cross sectoral focus of such national reviews. An analysis should be made of both the affirmative and negative trends and prospects, and then together, the youth NGOs and the Government's youth-related ministries and departments should formulate or, as appropriate, up-date an integrated national youth policy and programme of action. This, of course, should be done within the context of diverse socio-cultural circumstances and national development priorities of each country. In addition, Governments should strengthen or, as appropriate, set up a national youth service or a national service involving youth to implement such a national youth policy on local and provincial levels to enhance youth participation in development projects throughout each country. A major effort should be directed to promote such youth participation in development (especially youth from different socio-cultural and ethnic backgrounds) in specific projects to learn mutual respect and understanding, tolerance, conflict resolution, and peace. United Nations Information Centres and Services should give increased attention to youth information activities in those fields and the national offices of United Nations Resident Coordinators and of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the related operational agencies of the United Nations system in each country should support such national youth policies and programmes for Participation, Development and Peace in integrated and holistic ways.

B Regional level

As indicated by the General Assembly in its resolution 50/81(annexed World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond) and by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1997/55, the United Nations regional commissions were encouraged, within their mandates, pursuant to the Programme of Action, to convene biennial meetings of regional youth non-governmental organizations, regional offices of youth-related bodies and organizations of the United Nations system and regional intergovernmental organizations to review and discuss issues and trends as well as regional action. Such regional youth meetings should especially be held in preparation for and follow-up of both the sessions of the World Youth Forum of the United Nations System and the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth with a focus the issues of youth participation in national development as well as in international cooperation for peace. The United Nations regional commissions should coordinate the holding of those regional youth meetings with those of regional meetings of ministers responsible for youth in each respective region and focus on ways and means of increasing youth participation in the formulation, implementation and evaluation of development policies and projects. ESCAP and ECLAC have begun this process in 1998. ECA and ESCWA should join this effort to better implement the World Programme of Action for Youth at the regional level in coordination with the respective regional youth NGOs and IGOs concerned.

C. Global level

The new United Nations related platforms for global youth polices and programmes (the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth and the World Youth Forum of the United Nations System) are derived from the World Programme of Action and should play active roles in the promotion of youth participation in both the decision-making processes of international policy bodies of the United Nations system as well as the operational activities of the United Nations system. The youth-related agencies and organization system should cooperate with both of those processes and participate in the annual Inter-Agency Meeting on Youth which should also include representatives of youth-related intergovernmental organizations, international and regional development banks, and affiliated youth research centres and institutes. Such Inter-Agency Meetings on Youth should report to the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC) especially on the ways and means for integrated follow-up of the recommendations of the Conference and Forum.

In addition, the two new high-level policy management bodies in the United Nations Secretariat (the Executive Committee on Economic and Social Affairs and the United Nations Development Group) should give attention to the linkage of both normative and operational follow-up of the recommendations of the Conference and Forum so as to better coordinate and implement the World Programme of Action for Youth at all levels. Governments, NGOs and IGOs should support the United Nations Youth Fund which should be focussed on operational follow-up of the Conference and Forum at regional and national levels. The United Nations Youth Information Network (UNYIN: Internet Project) chould be expanded, within available resource, as the major United Nations global data base on youth polices and programmes, with a focus on youth participation, development and peace. This should be coordinated with other youth information websites of Member States, the United Nations system, youth NGOs and IGO. The World Youth Forum at its second session, in 1996, called for the development of a new media culture among youth in conflict resolution, in order to spread the message of participation, development, peace and the betterment of humanity. It further recommended that youth be empowered with media skills so that they may be more active citizens in the shaping of civil society. And, especially in honour of the International Year for the Culture of Peace: the Year 2000, such activities should be intensified and the experience of UNPREDEP on "Youth as Bridge-Builders in Multi-Ethnic Communities" should serve as a model for similar action by other United Nations Peace Forces in cooperation with UNESCO and other concerned agencies and organizations of the United Nations system and youth organizations.

ANNEX I

List of national, regional and global non-governmental youth coordination mechanisms for youth participation in development and peace building activities: as of July, 1998

1. National Level

Name:	Acronym:
Union of Afghan Youth	(UAY)
Albanian International Youth Committee	(AIYC)
Conseil Superieur de la Jeunesse	(CSJ: Algeria)
Youth Council of Andorra	(DJ)
Angolan National Youth Council	(ANYC)
National Youth Council of Antigua and Barbuda	(NYCAB)
Mesa de Concertacion Juvenil	(MCJ: Argentina)
Armenian Youth Council	(AYC)
Australian Youth Policy Action Coalition	(AYPAC)
Austrian Federal Youth Council	(OBJR)
National Assembly of Youth Organizations of Azerbaijan	(NAYORA)
Bangladesh Youth Council	(BYC)
National Federation of Youth Organizations in Bangladesh	
Barbados Youth Council	(BYC)
National Congress of Youth Organizations of Belarus	(RADA)
Flemish Platform for International Youth Work	(VPIJ: Belgium)
Committee for International Relations of Youth	
of the French Speaking Community of Belgium	(CRIJ)
Belize National Youth Council	(BNYC)
Organization of Revolutionary Youth of Benin	(OJRB)
Bhutan Youth Welfare Association	(BYWA)
Bhutan Youth Development Association	(BYDA)
National Council of Bolivian Youth	(CNJB)
Youth Council of Bosnia and Herzegovina	(YCBH)
Botswana National Youth Council	(BNYC)
Brazilian Youth Committee	(CJB)
National Union of Students of Brazil	(UNEB)
Brunei Youth Council	(BYC)
Committee for Youth and Children of Bulgaria	(CYC)
National Youth Union of Burkina Faso	(UNJB)
Youth Association of Cambodia	(YAC)
Khmer Youth Association	(KYA)
Canada World Youth	(CWY)
Federacao Nacional de Juventud de Cape Verde	(FNJ)
Association des Etudiants de l'Universite du Tchad	(AEUT)
Chilean National Youth Council	(CNJC)
All-China Youth Federation	(ACYF)
National Committee of Colombian Youth	(CNJC)
Association Colombiana de Institucionas Juveniles	(ACIJ)
National Union of Youth and Students of the Comoros	(UNAJEC)
Union of Socialist Youth of the Congo	(UJSC)
Federation des Mouvements et Associations de Jeunesse	
et d'Enfance de Cote d'Ivoire	(FEMA-JECI)
Croatian National Youth Council	(NSMH)
Cuban Youth Union	(UJC)
General Secretariat for Youth	(Cyprus)
Cyprus National Youth Council	(ESNK)
Circle of Czech Children and Youth Associations	(KSDM)

Kim IL Sung Socialist Youth League	(Democratic People's Republic of Korea)
Dansk Uugdoms Faellersrad	(DUF: Denmark)
Faroe Youth Council	(FUR: Denmark)
National Youth Council of Greenland	(SORLAK: Denmark)
Association of Youth Homes	(AMJD: Djibouti)
National Youth Council of Dominica	(NYCD)
Dominican Revolutionary Youth	(JRD)
Asamblea Nacional por los Derechos de los Jovenes	(Ecuador)
Casa Internacional de la Juventud	(CIJ: Ecuador)
Union Progressive Youth	(UPY: Egypt)
Consejo Nacional de la Juventud de El Salvador	(CNJES)
Jovenes Unidos de Guinea Ecuatorial	(JUGE)
National Union of Eritrean Youth	(NUEY)
Federation of Estonian Student Unions	(FESU)
Ethiopian Youth League	(EYL)
Fiji National Youth Council	(FNYC)
Finnish Youth Co-operation Allianssi	(Alliansi)
Comite pour les Relations Nationales et Internationales des Associations de Jeunesse et d' Education Populaire	(CNAJEP: France)
National Council of Youth Organizations of Georgia	(NCYOG)
German Committee for International Youth Work	(DNK)
German Federal Youth Council	(DBJR)
National Youth Organizing Commission of Ghana	(NYOC)
National Council of Hellenic Youth Organizations	(ESONE)
National Youth Council of Grenada	(NYCG)
Consejo Nacional de la Juventud de Guatemala	(CNJG)
Programa Educativo del Nino, la Nina y Adolescente Trabajador	(PENNAT: Guatemala)
National Youth Council of Guinea	(CNJ)
Comite Jeunes AGBEF	(Guinea)
Instituto de Juventude	(IJ: Guinea-Bissau)
National Network of Youth Organizations of Guinea Bissau	
National Association of Youth and Students	(NAYS: Guyana)
National Federation of Haitian Students	(FNEH)
Consejo Nacional de la Juventud	(Honduras)
National Youth Council of Hungary	(MAGYIT)
National Council of Icelandic Youth	(AESI)
Indian Assembly of Youth	(IAY)
Indian Committee of Youth Organizations	(ICYO)
Indonesian National Youth Council	(KNPI)
Supreme Council of Youth of the Islamic Republic of Iran	(SCY)
General Federation of Iraqi Youth	(GFIY)
National Youth Council of Ireland	(NYCI)
Israeli Council of Youth Movements	(ICYM)
Italian Youth Committee for International Relations	(CIGRI)
Jamaica National Youth Council	(JNYC)
National Council of Youth Organizations in Japan	(NCYOJ)
National Union of Jordanian Youth	(NUJY)
National Federation of Youth of Kazakstan	
Kenya Association of Organizations	(KAYO)
National Union of Kuwaiti Students	(NUKS)
Union de la Jeunesse de Laos	(UJL)
Youth Council of Latvia	(LPJ/YCL)
Organisation de la Jeunesse Progressive	(OPJ: Lebanon)
Lesotho Youth Federation	(LYFE)
Federation of Liberian Youth	(FLY)

General Congress of Students of the Peoples Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	(GUSPLAJ)
Youth Forum	(FJ/JF: Liechtenstein)
National Youth Council of Lithuana	(LIJOT)
General Conference of Luxembourg Youth	(CGIL)
National Youth Coordination	(Madagascar)
University of Malawi Student Union	(UMSU)
National Youth Council of Malawi	(NYCM)
Malaysian Youth Council	(MYC)
Maledives National Youth Council	(MNYC)
National Union of Mali Youth	(UNJM)
Malta National Youth Council	(KNZM)
Youth Council of the Marshall Islands	(YCMI)
National Youth Organization of Mauritania	(NYOM)
All Mauritius Youth Council	(AMYC)
Coordinador National des Estudiantes Mexicanos	(CNEM)
Mongolia Youth Federation	(MYF)
General Union of Moroccan Students	(UGEM)
Organization of Mozambican Youth	(OJM)
Myanmar Union Solidarity of Development Association	(USDA)
National Council of YMCAs of Myanmar	(YMCA: Myanmar)
National Youth Council of Namibia	(NYC)
Social Youth Council of Nepal	(SYCN)
Dutch Committee of Multilateral Youth Work	(Committee 31)
St. Maarten Youth Council Association	(The Netherlands)
National Conference of Youth Councils	(New Zealand)
Cook Islands National Youth Council	(CINYC)
National Youth Council of Nicaragua	(CJN)
National Samariya Youth Movement	(MNSJ)
National Youth Council of Nigeria	(NYCN)
Norwegian Youth Council	(LNU)
Omani National Organization for Scouts and Guides	(ONOSG)
All Pakistan Youth Federation	(APYF)
National Youth Council of Pakistan	(NYCOP)
National Youth Committee of Panama	(CNJ)
National Youth Council of Papua New Guinea	(NYCPNG)
Consejo Nacional de la Juventud del Paraguay	(CNJ)
Consejo Nacional de la Juventud del Peru	(CNJP)
National Youth Council of Peru	(CNJP)
Presidential Council for Youth Affairs	(PCYA: Philippines)
Polish National Youth Council	(PRM)
National Youth Council of Portugal	(CNJ)
Qatar Red Crescent Youth	(QRCY)
The National Council of Youth Organizations in Korea	(NCYOK)
National Youth Council of Moldova	(CNTM)
Committee for International Youth Representation	(CRIT: Romania)
National Youth Council of Russia	(NYCR)
Saint Kitts Youth Council	(SKYC)
Nevis Youth Council	(NYC)
Saint Lucia National Youth Council	(SLNYC)
National Youth Council of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	(NYCSVG)
National Youth Council of Samoa	(NYCS)
National Youth Council of San Marino	(CGNS)
Youth Movement Sao Tome and Principe	(JMLSTP)
Youth Organization of Sao Tome and Principe	(OJST)
Saudi Arabian Assembly of Muslim Youth	(WAMY-Saudi Arabia)
National Youth Council of Senegal	(CNJS)

National Youth League of Seychelles	(LNJS)
Sierra Leone Federation of Youth Organizations	(SLFYO)
National Youth Council of Singapore	(NYCS)
Corporate Communications National Youth Centre	(Singapore)
National Youth Council of Slovakia	(RMS)
Mladinski Svet Slovenije (Slovenia Youth Council)	(MSS)
Solomon Islands National Youth Congress	(SINYC)
Somali Revolutionary Youth Union	(SRYU)
South African Youth Council	(SAYC)
Spanish Youth Council	(CJE)
National Youth Council of Catalonia	(CNJC: Spain)
National Youth Services Council	(NYSC: Sri Lanka)
Sudanese Youth Union	(SYU)
General Sudanese Students Union	(GSSU)
Suriname National Youth Assembly	(SNJA)
Swaziland National Youth Council	(SNYC)
National Council of Swedish Youth	(LSU)
Revolutionary Youth Union of Syrian Arab Republic	(RYU)
National Council for Child and Youth Development	(NCYD: Thailand)
Youth Council of Macedonia (The Former Yugoslav Republic of)	(YCM)
Comite Prov. du Conseil National de la Jeunesse	(CP/CNJT: Togo)
National Youth Council of Trinidad	(NYCT)
Tobago Youth Council	(TYC)
Union of Tunisian Youth Organizations	(UTOJ)
Genclick Servisleri Merkesi	(GSM: Turkey)
Uganda National Youth Council	(UNYC)
Ukrainian National Youth Organizations Committee	(UNKMO)
United Arab Emirates Scouts	(UAES)
British Youth Council	(BYC)
Tanzanian Youth Organization	(UWV)
Tanzania Youth Council	(BVT)
National Collaboration on Youth	(USA)
Consejo de la Juventud del Uruguay	(CJU)
Youth Forum	(FJ: Uruguay)
Vanuatu National Youth Council	(VNYC)
Viet Nam Youth Federation	(VYF)
General Union of Yemeni Youth	(GYUU)
Bureau of International Cooperation of Youth	(OSS: Yugoslavia)
Youth Council of Montenegro	(YCM: Yugoslavia)
National Youth Council of Zaire	(CNJ)
National Youth Development Council of Zambia	(NYDCZ)
Zimbabwe Youth Council	(ZYC)

2.Regional Level

Region:	Name:	Acronym:
Africa:		
	African Youth Network	(AYN)
	Pan-African Youth Movement	(MPJ)
	All African Student Union	(AASU)
Asia and the Pacific:		
	Asian Youth Council	(AYC)
	Pacific Youth Council	(PYC)

Asian Student Association	(ASA)
Regional Collective Consultation of Youth NGOs in Asia-Pacific	(RCCAP)

Europe and North America:

European Youth Forum	(EYF)
National Union of Students of Europe	(ESIB)
Canadian Federation of Students	(CFS)
United States Student Association	(USSA)
United States National Collaboration for Youth	(USNCY)

Latin America and the Caribbean:

Latin American Youth Forum	(FLAJ)
Latin American and Caribbean Confederation of Students	(OCLAE)
Caribbean Federation of Youth	(CFY)

Western Asia:

Arab Youth Union	(AYU)
General Union of Arab Students	(GUAS)

3. Global level

Youth Fora

World Youth Forum of the United Nations System	(WYF/UNS)
UNEP Global Youth Forum on the Environment	(UNEP/GYF)
UNESCO World Collective Consultation of Youth NGOs	(UNESCO/CC)

Youth Service

United Nations Volunteers, Youth Partners for Development	(UNV/YPD)
UNESCO Coordinating Committee for International Voluntary Service	(UNESCO/CCIVS)

Youth NGO Committees

UN Headquarters NGO Committee on Youth	(UN/NGOCY)
Geneva Informal Meeting of International Youth NGOs	(GIM)
UNESCO International NGO Committee on Youth	(UNESCO/ICY)